

THIRD PART

NEW WOMAN AT
THE BALLOT BOX

Virginian Witnesses Novel Feature of
Election in Colorado.

TALES TOLD ABOUT DENVER.

Its Handsome, Heavily Mortgaged
Church Buildings—Tabor Grand
Opera House Monument to Its
Builder's Poverty.

DENVER, COLO., Nov. 15.—Special.—
Since writing my last letter an election has occurred in this city, at which the Democrats won. One, to me, novel feature of the election was to see women in carriages going from house to house picking up voters, of their own sex, of course, and taking them to the polls to vote. While a great many, it must be said, had a majority of women take an active part in political matters, the few who do seem to enter into it with all the vim and interest of old politicians.

But I have observed that the better element of the female populace shrink from the rôle of the elective franchise assigned them. The world will never be rid of the traditional old characters, who most truly in where angels fear to tread, if this State should ever have the same amount of population to the square mile as Virginia, what an army of these unique characters it would contain.

The area of this State is 103,477 square miles, or 66,355.53 acres. The plains portions constitute about one-third of the total area; the balance is mountainous and rocky. Four-fifths of the State has an elevation of 4,000 to 10,000 feet above the sea, seventy-two peaks from which the snow never disappears rise to heights from 12,000 to 15,000 feet. The vast, wild and rugged mountains are not as they first appear to view from the plains or as we look upon them from Denver, as one long string of peaks. Quite the reverse, the ranges consist of hundreds of miles across them on their western slope. Between these various ranges are many fine plateaus and natural parks; the most noted of which are the North, the South, Middle and San Luis Parks. These parks are covered with verdure. The Rio Grand flows through San Luis Park, making it a fine agricultural district, where many good farms are located, on which large crops of wheat and other grains are raised. The Valley is rich and fertile and destined to be the most desirable locality in the mountain region on account of its peculiarly mild climate. The other parks or plateaus, being of much greater elevation, have rigid winters, and during the summer the nights are too cold for cultivation and are consequently given over and devoted to grazing purposes.

Sixty thousand square miles of these mountains are covered by forests—yellow pine, white pine, spruce. None of the hard woods, except some scrub oak, and the greater the elevation the more scrubby they are. At about eleven thousand feet elevation vegetation ceases to grow. As you stand upon these high ranges and look over another, equally as high, or higher (as wherever you stand the next mountain seems higher) a well-defined line, called timber line, can be distinctly seen and traced as far as the vision permits. This line is the limit of growth of vegetation.

SITUATION OF DENVER.

There seems to be a prevailing belief with many who have never been to Colorado that this city is in or on the edge of the Rocky Mountains. Such, however, is not the case. It is located about fifteen miles east from the first foot hills of the Rockies at the confluence of Cherry creek and the Platte river. To call such a stream in Virginia, a river, one would be laughed to scorn as there are times when it contains insufficient water to drown a rat. And so, in Cherry creek, it is simply a stream of sand.

I am told that far down in the depths of this sand of or near bed rock there is an overflow of water and that at certain localities near its junction with the Platte river quick sand abounds to a wonderfully dangerous extent, that down in the depths of this treacherous sand are lost treasures equal to the bottom of the sea.

This Cherry creek, so I am told by "old timers," who delight in entertaining the "tender foot," as we new comers are called, frequently got on a "rampage," i.e., it being the drainage outlet for a large extent of the country which slopes to the valley. It quickly fills with vast volume of water, which goes thundering and roaring down with the impetuosity of a mountain stream, toppling bridges, hurling everything in its way.

On one occasion, in the early days of Denver, when most of the town was built back in the shadow of this powerful but unreliable dry stream, the County Courthouse, a small, unpretentious wooden structure, containing all the records of the town and county, was suddenly and without warning swept from its foundation by one of the bounding floods which those days came like a thief in the night and carried down in the devastating whirlpool of sand and water into the unfathomable abyss far from sight or to a

reaching building, iron safes, records, everything, lost forever. Many attempts were made to locate it, but without avail.

LEFT HOLE IN ATMOSPHERE.

Another similar account has been added to my fund of information. A few miles east of the city is another sand stream called very appropriately Sand Creek.

The old Kansas Pacific railroad crossed this creek on a wooden bridge, and on an occasion, in a sudden flood the bridge was washed away, and shortly afterwards a train came along. The absence of the bridge was discovered just in time to save the train, but the engine went over and sank in the quick sand out of sight and has not to this day been found. These goods, I am informed, are less frequent than in former years.

Denver is to-day a beautiful city known by the name of "The Queen City of the Plains." The site is exceptionally attractive. It is just one mile above sea level. Across the foot hills fifteen miles to the west the Rocky Mountains and snowy range loom up in grandeur, extending in one continuous view from Long's peak, on the north, to Pike's peak and the Santa de Cristo range, on the south, a stretch of over two hundred miles a feast for the eye which no landscape can overdraw. On this northerly extremity of the city is a fine park, park-like, containing about five hundred acres, in which are two lakes, wide drives of natural hardness; and during the summer the floral display and adornments are equal to any I ever saw. Though the park is new, it compares favorably with those of larger and older cities.

The city can boast of its public schools, both in numbers and elaborateness of construction, and I am informed, are managed by as competent superintendents and teachers as can be found.

MAGNIFICENT, BUT MORTGAGED.

Churches are decidedly numerous, no denomination under the sun but that is represented here. No pains, elegance or expense are spared in the erection of their edifices, everything is on a large scale, even to the mortgages. I am told the mortgages are at least three times the value of the buildings.

Chapels are also numerous, no denomination under the sun but that is represented here. No pains, elegance or expense are spared in the erection of their edifices, everything is on a large scale, even to the mortgages. I am told the mortgages are at least three times the value of the buildings.

THE EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL.

The Episcopal Cathedral is a modest, yet well appointed, edifice for worship, built in the form of the Roman cross, standing in a quiet part of the city which is somewhat apart from the best residential quarters. It has no steeple pointing heavenward and no outward embellishments, except a mortgage. The gospel is preached here by one who desires to be known and addressed as the "Very Reverend Dean So-and-So." He is a jolly, good-natured Englishman, so long as you think he is somewhat peculiar; his hat is one of itself, and it stands alone in the world, and looks as handsome as last year's bird nest. His gait is a busy one and bestrides the inward fire that prompts him. Socially, he is a blooming success, quick at repartee, and sharp to discern the humorous and ridiculous in conversation. In public performances he is a credit to the cathedral.

In the drawing room he is a credit to the cathedral.

THE TRINITY METHODIST AND THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN.

The Trinity Methodist and the Central Presbyterian were built during the boomer days, when everybody was prospectively wealthy, which may account in some measure for the height of their steeples, the size of their organs, luxuriant private boxes and immense seating capacity.

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THE CHURCHES.

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